



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
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## IM Weekly Highlights



- The tower foundation for the new tower at XL Heights was completed Wed., June 30.
- Marty Angeli is working with Northern Tier consortium members to coordinate the installation of radio flash upgrades.
- Brian Sewell is working to resolve generator issues at the Belgium Hill site in Pondera County.
- Dave Clouse issued the "notice to proceed" on the PSIC -2 microwave project.
- The tower foundation at VC Pass has been removed and crews will soon start installing the new foundation.

## Webinars Scheduled to Explain Funding Options

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

At the Interoperability Montana Project Directors ((IMPD) June 8 meeting, members resolved all of the critical statewide radio build-out issues and most, but not all, of the financial decisions for the IM Business Plan. The remaining primary financial issue is: *What type and quantity of fees will IM charge?*

Several webinars were scheduled to explain funding options and obtain opinions directly from consortia members, county commissioners and tribal leaders. The remaining sessions are scheduled on Tues, July 6 at 8:30 am and 3:30 pm as well as Wed., July 7 at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. The following computer links change with each webinar.

### July 6, 8:30 am:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/azworld/join?id=2MFPH8&role=attend&pw=2%26xX%7Ecw>

### July 6, 3:30 pm:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/azworld/join?id=RMNR6W&role=attend&pw=2%26xX%7Ecw>

### July 7, 10:30 am:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/8000773882/join?id=72FZ37&role=attend&pw=2%26xX%7Ecw>

### July 7, 1:30 pm:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/8000773882/join?id=RZ4H79&role=attend&pw=2%26xX%7Ecw>

The call-in number is (866) 740-1260 and code is 7764463. Participants who want to view materials online need to direct their computers to the webinar site and join a telephone conference call.

Telephone-only participants will not be able to see the documents on screen.

To save time before the meeting, check your system to make sure it is ready to use Microsoft Office Live Meeting. Go to: <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=90703>.

Follow-up consortium meetings are taking place to ensure consensus among consortium members prior to the next IMPD meeting, which has been postponed from Tues., July 13 to Tues., Aug. 10. At that meeting, project directors are expected to vote on recommended funding mechanisms and the adoption of the IM Business Plan.

## Working Session Tackles 700 MHz Planning

By Scott Bradford [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov)

The Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB), with assistance from Bette Rinehart, Motorola Regulatory Specialist, conducted a two-day working session to help draft a Region 25 700 MHz plan. Bette has extensive experience in assisting regions completing 700 MHz and 800 MHz plans, and tackling complex regulatory issues.

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has established 54 Regional Planning Committees to establish plans and priorities for the use of 700 MHz narrowband spectrum for public safety. Region 25 encompasses the entire State of Montana. Regional planning for 700 MHz began in 2003 with the formation of the Regional Planning Committee, whose ultimate goal was creation of a comprehensive plan. Although this band is not utilized currently in Montana, the advent of multi-band and cognitive radios will eventually increase the value and utilization of this spectrum. Over half of the regions in the U.S. have approved plans.

Region 25 Chairman Kevin Bruski asked PSSB

to move forward on a draft plan that can be considered by the regional membership. PSSB hopes to have the draft completed, with an allotment table, in early fall 2010. Once completed, the plan will be distributed to adjacent regions

for comment and eventual approval by the FCC. Anyone interested in serving on the regional planning committee is urged to contact Kevin Bruski at [kbruski@interopmtproject.org](mailto:kbruski@interopmtproject.org).

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PSSB would like to thank Bette Rinehart and Motorola for their assistance with draft plan development.

### Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The DHS Act of 2007 established Regional Emergency Communications Coordination (RECC) working groups in each of the 10 FEMA regions to coordinate multi-state efforts and measure progress on improving the survivability, sustainability and interoperability of communications at the regional level. These working groups were established to better support states in planning for and responding to disasters.

The RECC working groups coordinate with diverse communicators, ranging from state interoperable communications councils to ham radio operators to local broadcasters and cable operators. They also work with hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) providers, public utilities, wireless and satellite communication service providers and other entities as needed. They encourage collaboration to share lessons learned and best practices to optimize planning efforts.

As of Dec. 3, 2009, all 10 RECC working groups had successfully addressed the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) 12-month milestones. They are currently focused on addressing 18- and 24-month NECP milestones regarding communications continuity planning and exercises.

RECC working group goals are to:

- Increase coordination of effective multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency emergency communications networks for use during disasters (natural or otherwise)
- Expand RECC working group membership to include tribal representation
- Continue to increase local participation in the working groups
- Increase outreach to the private sector
- Link efforts to statewide interoperability governing bodies.

FEMA Region VIII includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The FEMA Region VIII RECC working group holds

meetings both in-person and via conference call to ensure that information flows before, during and after a disaster or crisis. The group has created three sub-committees that address the following areas: 1) Charter, Membership, Position Paper, & Best Practices, 2) Technology, Standards, Utilities, & Inventory of Resources, and 3) Outreach, Planning, Training & Exercises.

For additional information regarding the RECC working group, or if you have communications issues the RECCWG can assist you with, you may e-mail Beth Todd at [btodd@vecc9-1-1.com](mailto:btodd@vecc9-1-1.com).

### Upcoming Meetings

#### • Tues., July 6

Funding Options Webinar

Call-in No.: (866) 740-1260 Pass Code: 7764463

8:30 am and 3:30 pm

Use webinar links on Page 1

#### • Wed., July 7

Funding Options Webinar

Call-in No.: (866) 740-1260; Pass Code: 7764463

10:30 am and 1:30 pm

Use webinar links on Page 1

#### • Thurs., July 8

Northern Tier Consortium

Havre • 9:00 am – noon

Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.

#### • Mon., July 12

IM Finance Committee – *Tentative*

Helena • 9:00 am - noon

Anderson ZurMuehlen

828 Great Northern Blvd.

#### • Mon., July 12

IM Governance Committee – *Tentative*

Helena • 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Anderson ZurMuehlen

828 Great Northern Blvd.

#### • Tues., July 13

IM Project Directors Meeting – *Cancelled*

#### • Mon., July 19

Central Consortium (CMICC)

Lewistown • 9:00 am – noon

Location to be Announced

#### • Wed., July 21

Eastern Tier Consortium

Sidney • 9:00 am – noon

Richland Co. Law & Justice Center, 300 12th Ave. N.W.

#### • Mon., July 26 – *Please Note New Date & Time*

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium

Butte • 9:00 am – noon

Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.

*All of us at PSSB Wish You a Very Happy Fourth of July!*